Sabha on 25th July, 2000. The Bill, as introduced and pending in the Lok Sabha, was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination. The Committee has since presented its Report to both the Houses of Parliament on 25th July 2001.

Package for increasing the coverage of AIR and DD in N.E. Region

73. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the package for increasing the coverage of All India Radio and Doordarshan in the North East to fight dominance of neighbouring countries' channels;

(b) the estimated cost for implementation of the package;

(c) whether infrastructure for satellite transmission has been provided; and

(d) the action proposed to broadcast creative local programme to make the medium effective?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government has approved in principle, the implementation of a special package of schemes for improvement of Doordarshan and AIR services in the North-East Region (including Sikkim). The package will be implemented in the 10th Five Year Plan, and advance action will start during the current financial year. The firming up of estimated costs depends on appraisal by the Expenditure Finance Committee as well as the success of experimental strategies for cost reduction.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In-house productions in the AIR Stations and Doordarshan Kendras of North-East are giving due emphasis to the social economic and cultural set-up of that area. Local producers who are conversant with the culture of the people and the area, are to be preferred for commissioning of programmes. All commissioned programmes are being done in the local language.